Discipline of Market Leaders and other impediments to implementation

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Discipline of Market Leaders

- by Treacy & Wiersema
- Survey of 80 high performing firms
- Key to success: Focus

Operationally Excellent

- Highest quality => lowest cost
- "Formula" => short menu
- Process innovative









Product Innovative

- Market leader in innovation
- Measure: number of patents,
 Nobelists, turns in the marketplace











Customer Intimate

"Infinite" menu



- Measure: "walletshare"
- NOT lowest cost, highest quality, most innovative
- "Schmoozes"



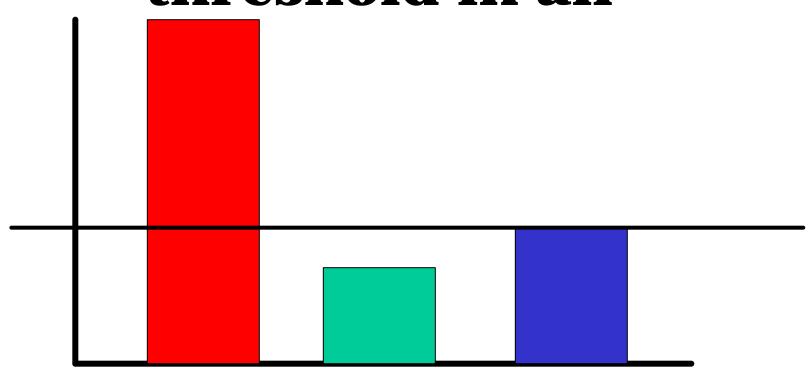




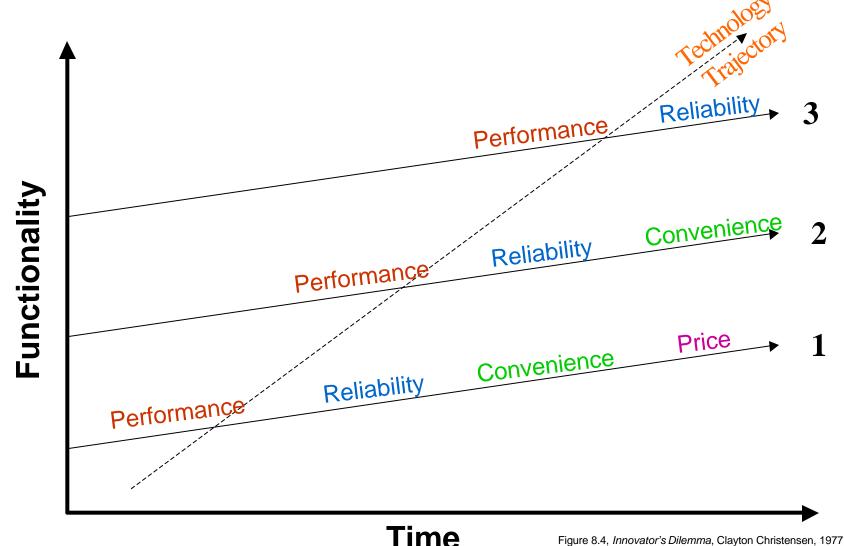




Focus on one, have to meet the threshold in all



Innovator's Dilemma



Square peg - round hole??



Operationally Excellent

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Customer intimate: flexibility is key

 Peer reviews:

 look for "magic numbers," unintelligible code

 These limit choices, flexibility, time to respond

 Configuration management:
 The interfaces End-to-end solutions are possible

Customer Intimacy (cont.)

Most important ingredient:
Architecture standards

Enables flexible, hitherto unseen solutions

Product innovative: features are key

• CMM KPA Goal 1: "xx is planned"

 Plan: "1.4 striking breakthroughs per fortnight" Planning is not as important as understanding & challenging constraints Innovation cannot be planned

Innovativeness (cont.)

 Instead - risk manage

Lightweight processes

Create an environment of creativity (= OK to fail *in the small*)
Probably documented only at highest level

Innovativeness (cont.)

- "Good enough quality" – quality that meets the threshold value
- High differentiation, high integration

Benchmark quality & other attributes to tune values

Lots of experts + people whose job it is to benchmark and integrate, stay focused

Whoosh!

- "Fit" is an important, practical reality
- Always ask "Why?"
- Remember: we are in one of the slowest moving and least understood professions, so ...
- Stay alert, don't believe everything you hear/read
- Search, seek, keep high standards!